30
DOCTOR SOLAR

WHITMAN

90308-202

DOCTOR SOLAR

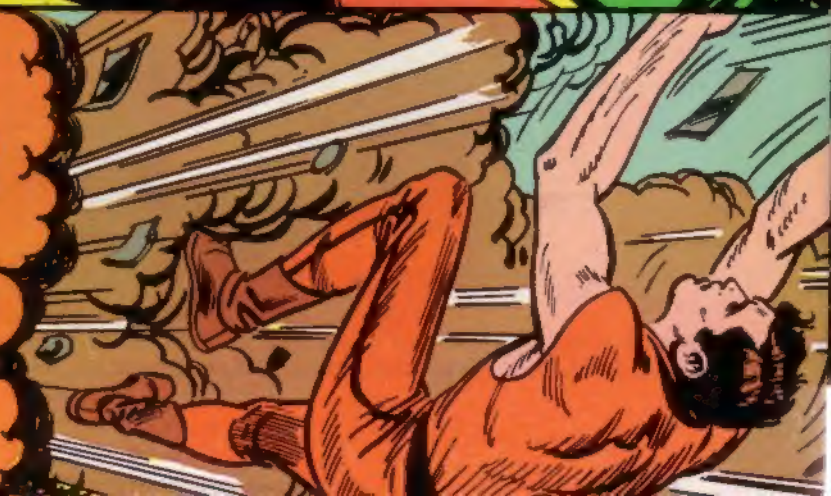
MAN OF THE ATOM

60¢

The mysterious scientist has the world in his grasp—
ALMOST ...

ALSO FEATURING

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 4000 A.D.



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LITTLE LULU®

She's Mr. Moppet's little girl. In fact she's everybody's little girl!

LITTLE LULU
Delightfully yours in Whitman Comics!

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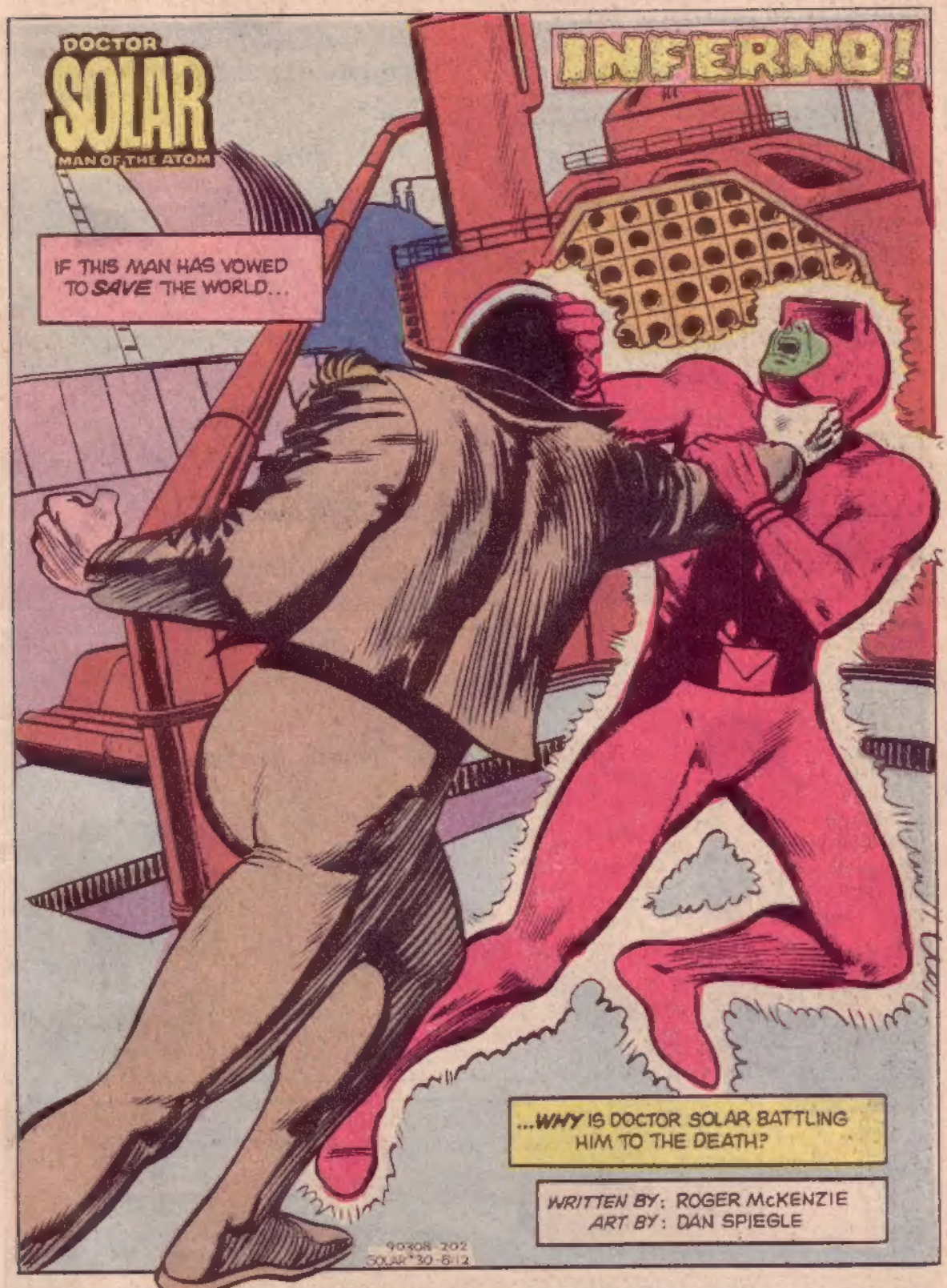

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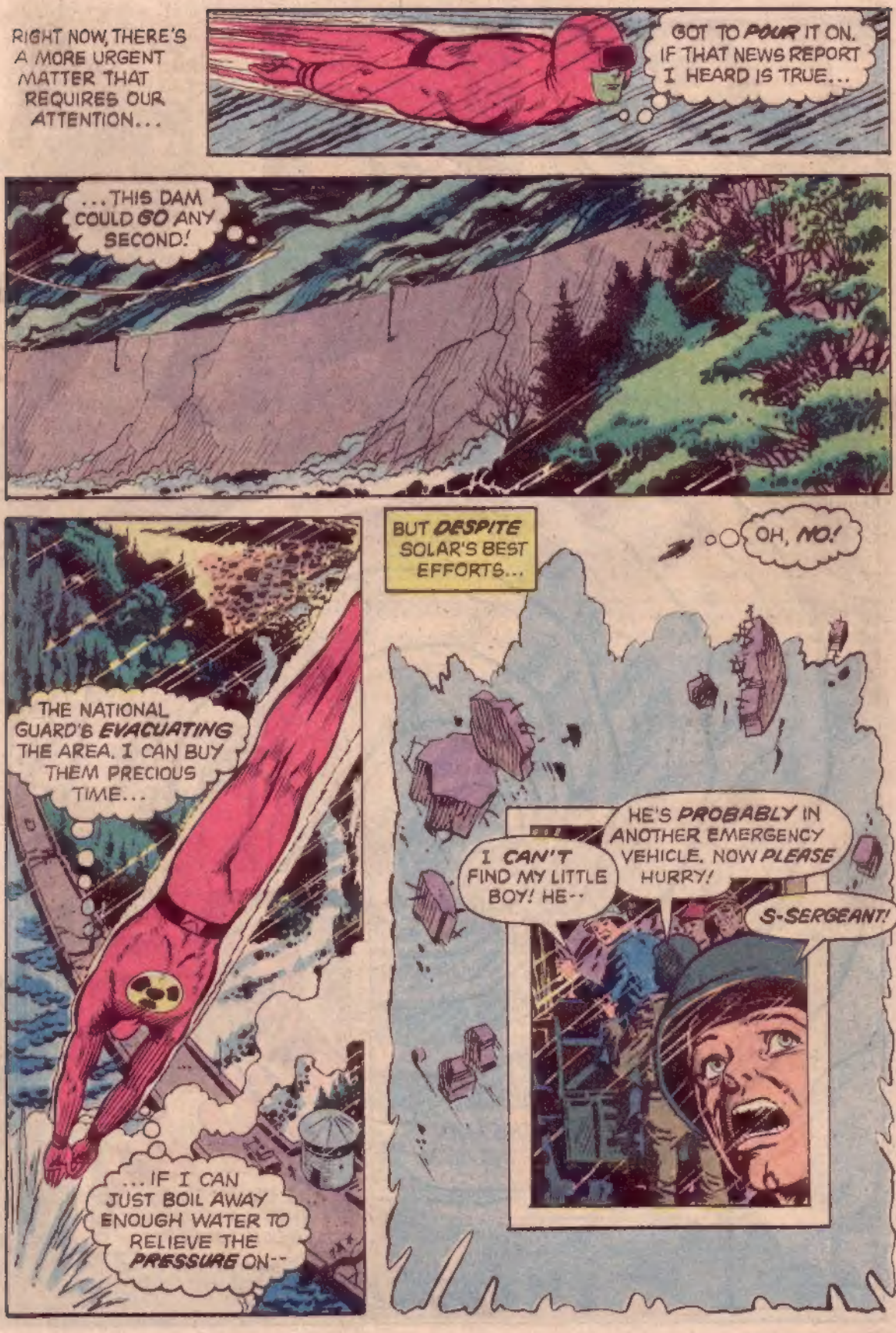
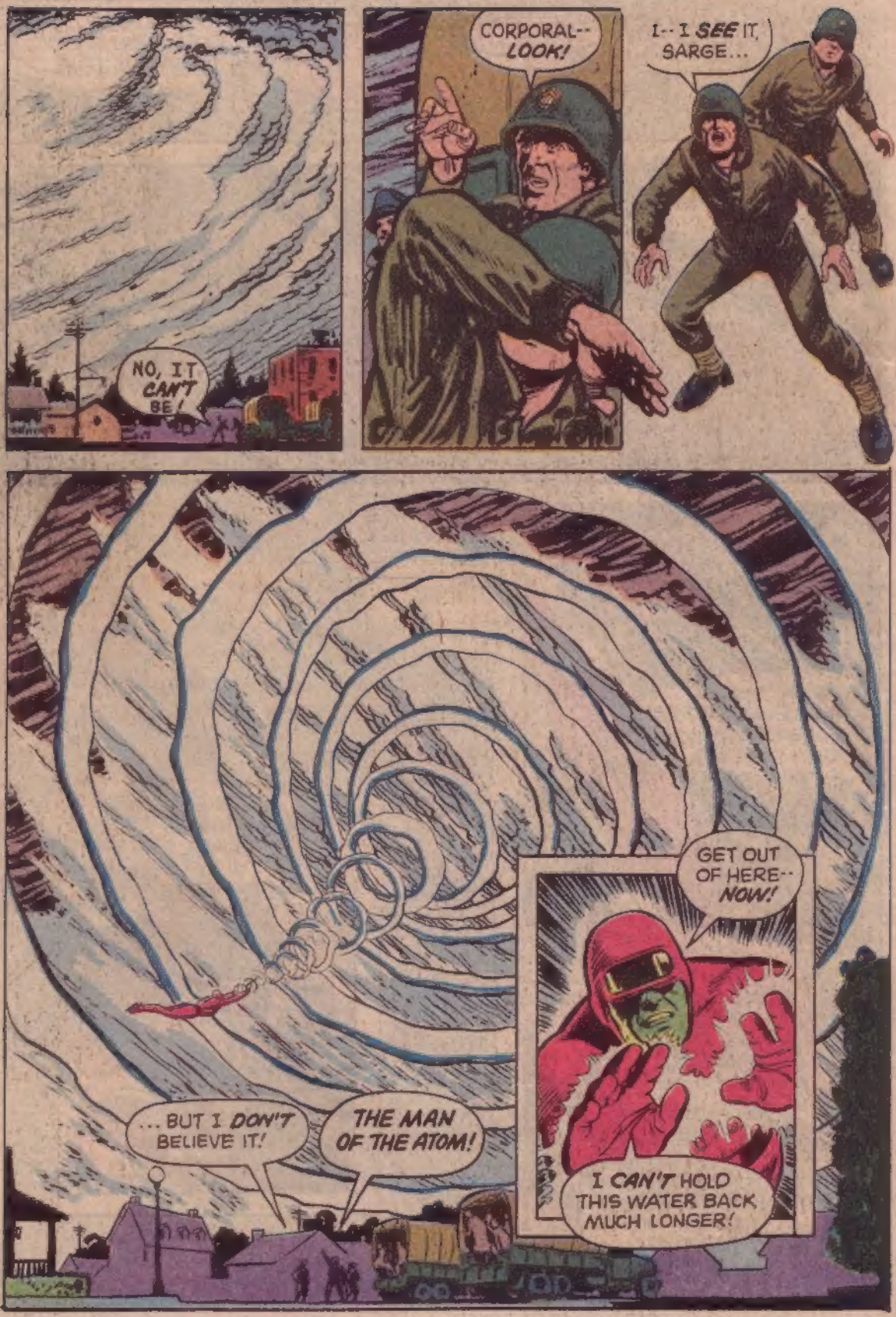
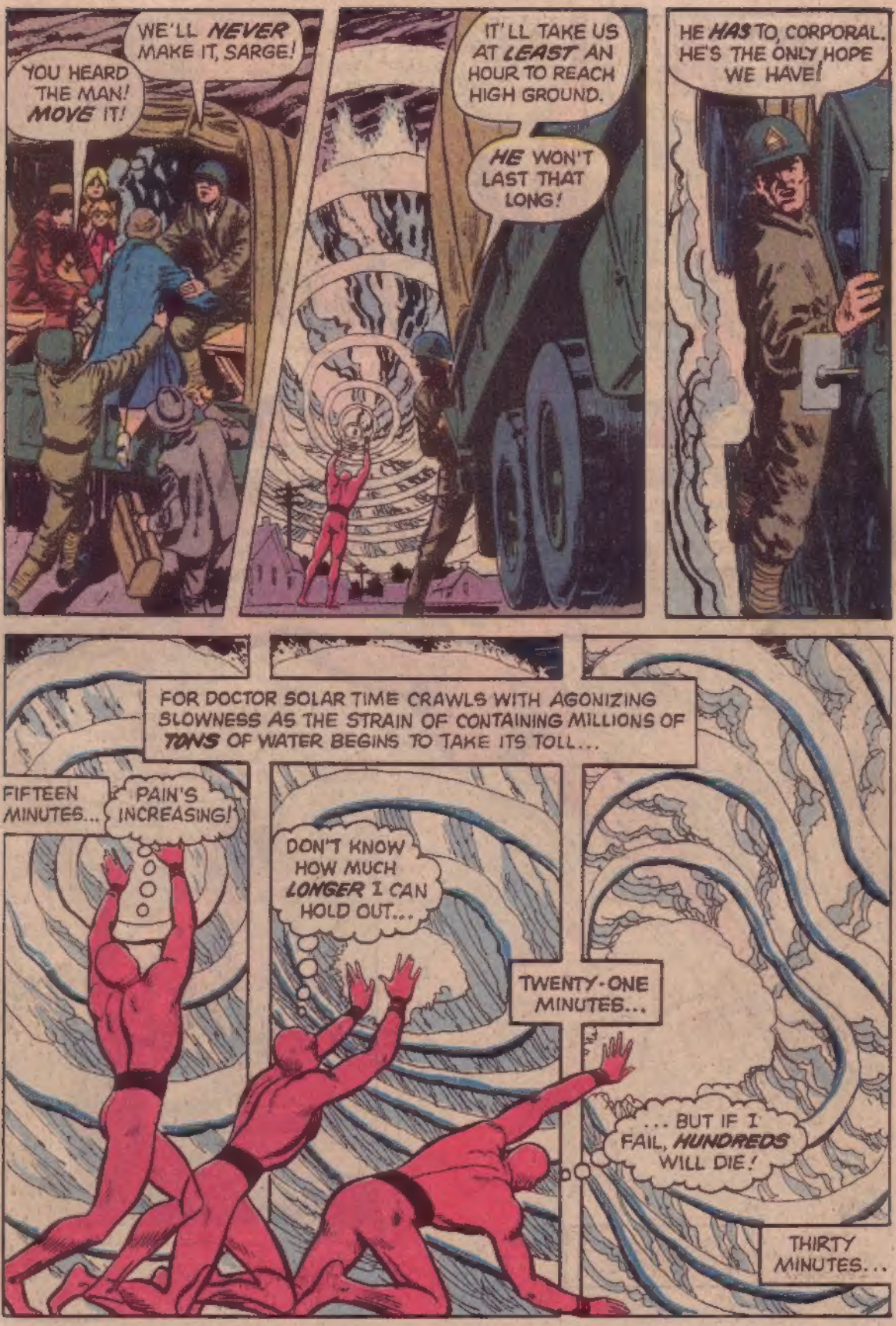
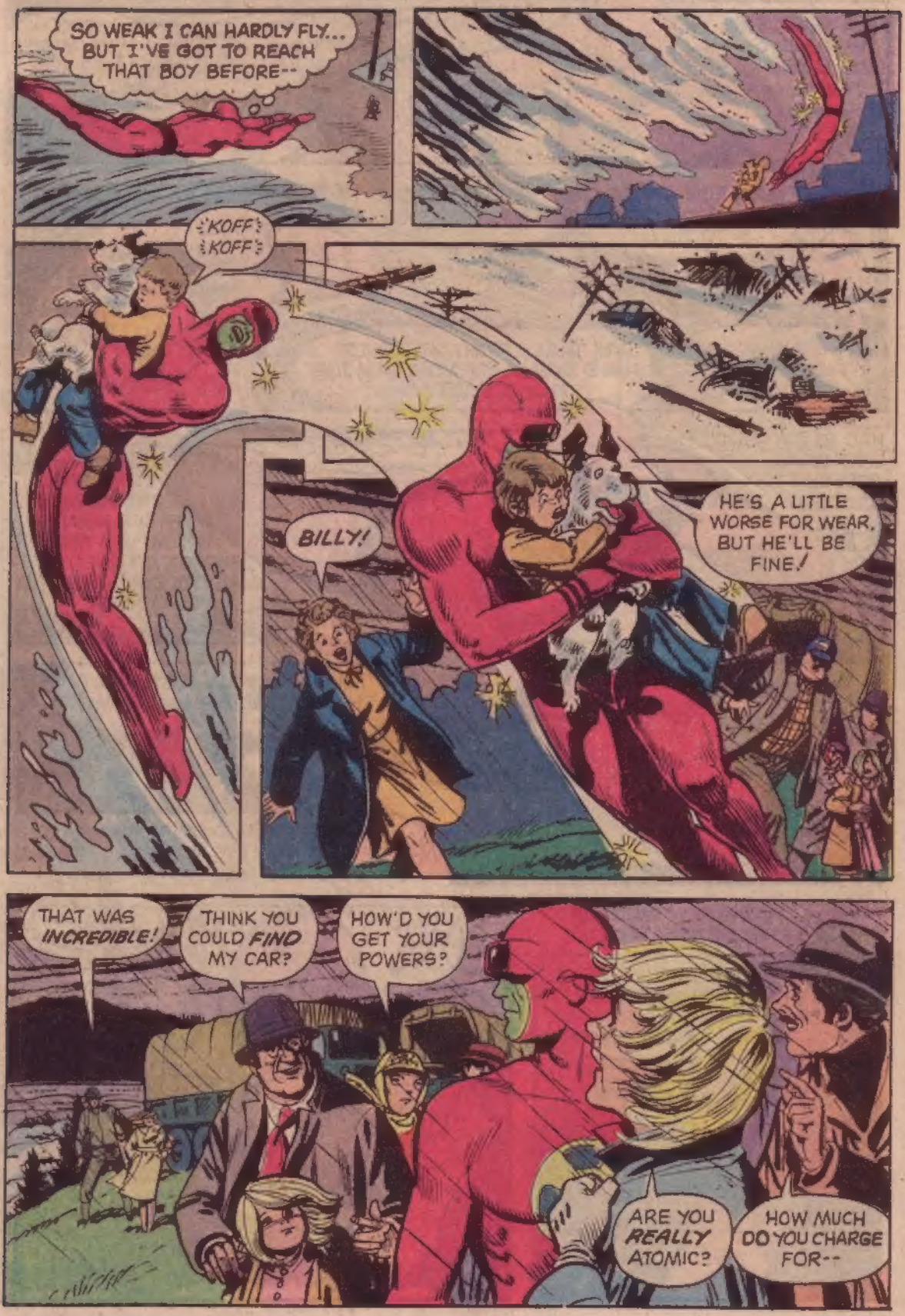
EVERY STORY HAS TO START SOMEWHERE. OURS BEGINS EARLY ONE STORM-TOSSED MORNING AT ATOM VALLEY'S PRIVATE AIRFIELD...
DOCTOR CLARKSON... KLIK... DOCTOR SANDERS! WAIT!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE... KLIK ... WITHOUT SOLAR!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, TINKER. HE ISN'T HERE...
...AND THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!
IF ERIC DANTE CAN DO WHAT HE CLAIMS, THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY!
YOU, MY FRIEND, COULD BECOME OBSOLETE!
IN FACT, WE MAY ALL BE LOOKING FOR WORK!
BUT NOBODY'S EVEN HEARD OF HIM ... KLIK... OR PROJECT DYNAMO BEFORE LAST WEEK!
THAT'S WHY HE SCHEDULED A WORLDWIDE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TOMORROW.
BELIEVE ME, TINKER, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR.
BUT I'VE A NASTY FEELING YOU AREN'T!
WE'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MR. DANTE AND HIS SECRET PROJECT LATER...


RIGHT NOW, THERE'S A MORE URGENT MATTER THAT REQUIRES OUR ATTENTION...
GOT TO POUR IT ON. IF THAT NEWS REPORT I HEARD IS TRUE...
...THIS DAM COULD GO ANY SECOND!
THE NATIONAL GUARD'S EVACUATING THE AREA. I CAN BUY THEM PRECIOUS TIME...
...IF I CAN JUST BOIL AWAY ENOUGH WATER TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON--
BUT DESPITE SOLAR'S BEST EFFORTS...
OH, NO!
I CAN'T FIND MY LITTLE BOY! HE--
HE'S PROBABLY IN ANOTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLE. NOW PLEASE HURRY!
S-SERGEANT!


NO, IT CAN'T BE!
CORPORAL-- LOOK!
I-- I SEE IT, SARGE...
GET OUT OF HERE-- NOW!
I CAN'T HOLD THIS WATER BACK MUCH LONGER!
...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

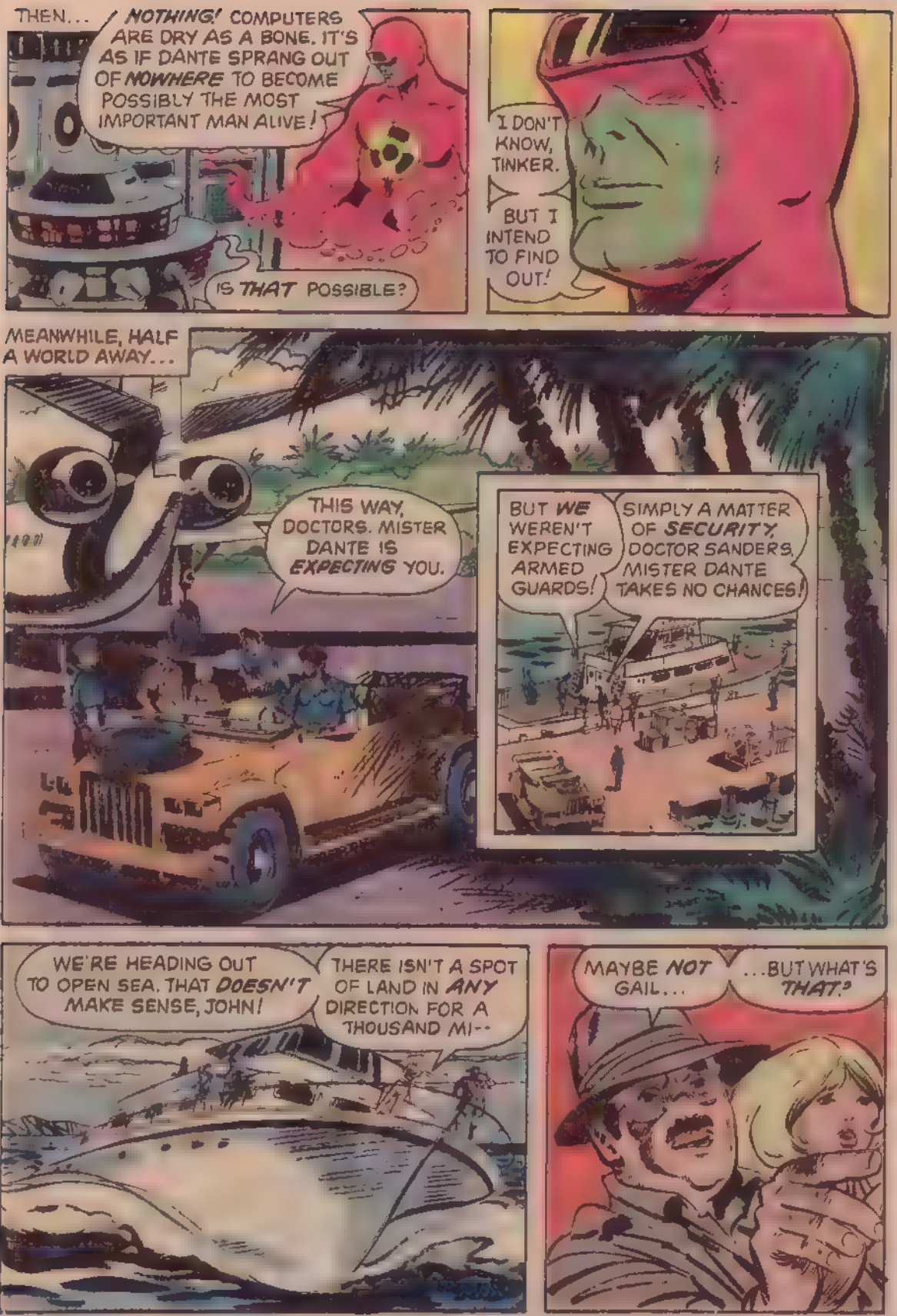

YOU HEARD THE MAN! MOVE IT!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, SARGE!
IT' LL TAKE US AT LEAST AN HOUR TO REACH HIGH GROUND.
HE WON'T LAST THAT LONG!
HE HAS TO, CORPORAL. HE'S THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE!
FOR DOCTOR SOLAR TIME CRAWLS WITH AGONIZING SLOWNESS AS THE STRAIN OF CONTAINING MILLIONS OF TONS OF WATER BEGINS TO TAKE ITS TOLL...
FIFTEEN MINUTES...
PAIN'S INCREASING!
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD OUT...
TWENTY-ONE MINUTES...
... BUT IF I FAIL, HUNDREDS WILL DIE!
THIRTY MINUTES...

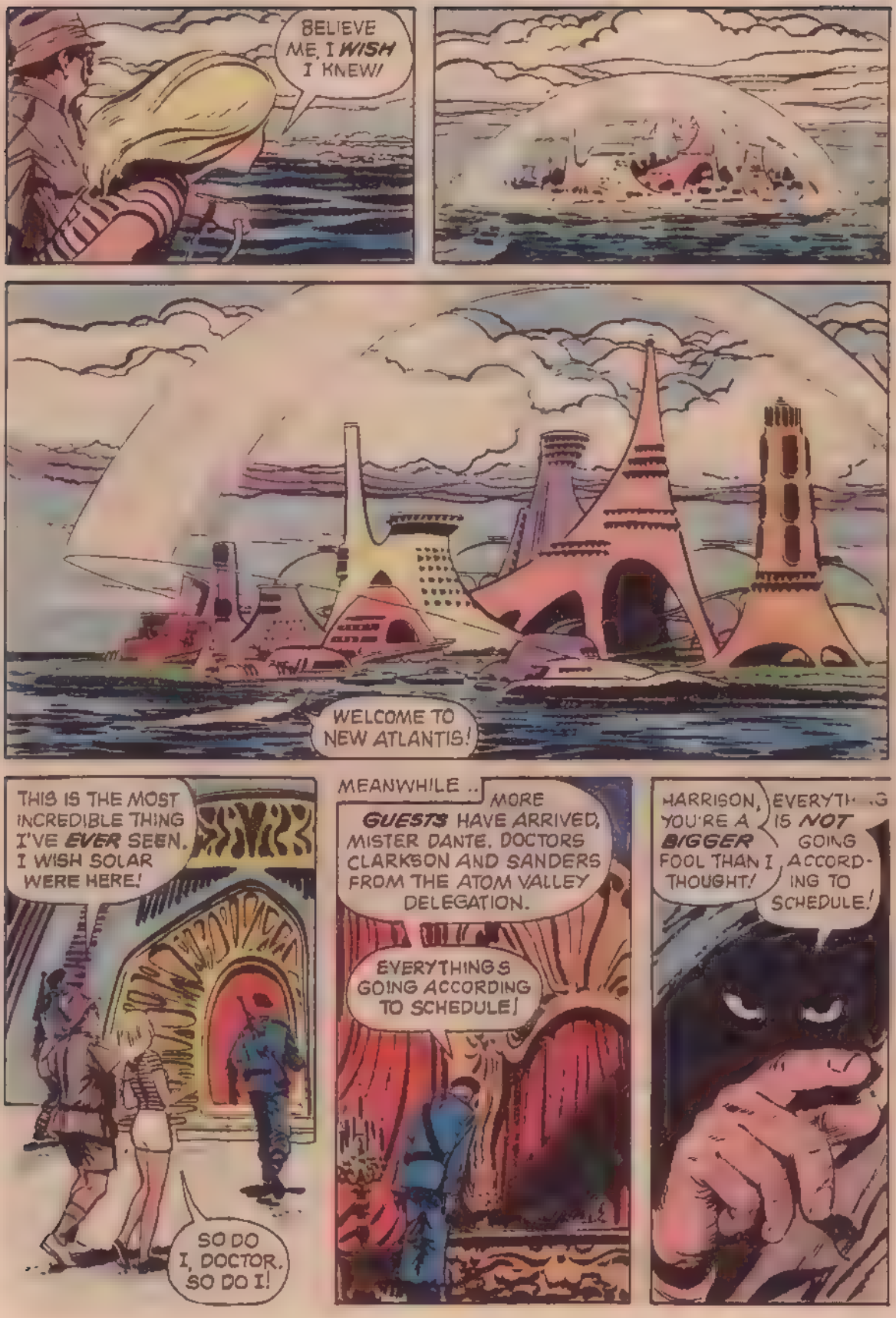
NO... I WON'T GIVE UP!
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!
FORTY MINUTES...
THE SAME FATE THAT MADE ME A VIRTUAL NUCLEAR OUTCAST ALSO GAVE ME AWESOME POWERS!
FIFTY-FIVE MINUTES...
IF I CAN'T USE THOSE POWERS TO HELP OTHERS, MY LIFE IS MEANINGLESS!
ONE HOUR...
BUT EVENTUALLY EVEN THE SUPERHUMAN STAMINA OF THE MAN OF THE ATOM CAN WITHSTAND NO MORE, AND...
I'VE HAD IT... NEARLY SPENT... BUT AT LEAST THE PEOPLE ARE SAFE!
BUTTONS! THOUGHT I'D NEVER FIND YOU! IT'S O.K. NOW, YOU'RE...
NOT ALL OF THEM, HOWEVER...
... SAFE...
SEVENTY-TWO MINUTES...

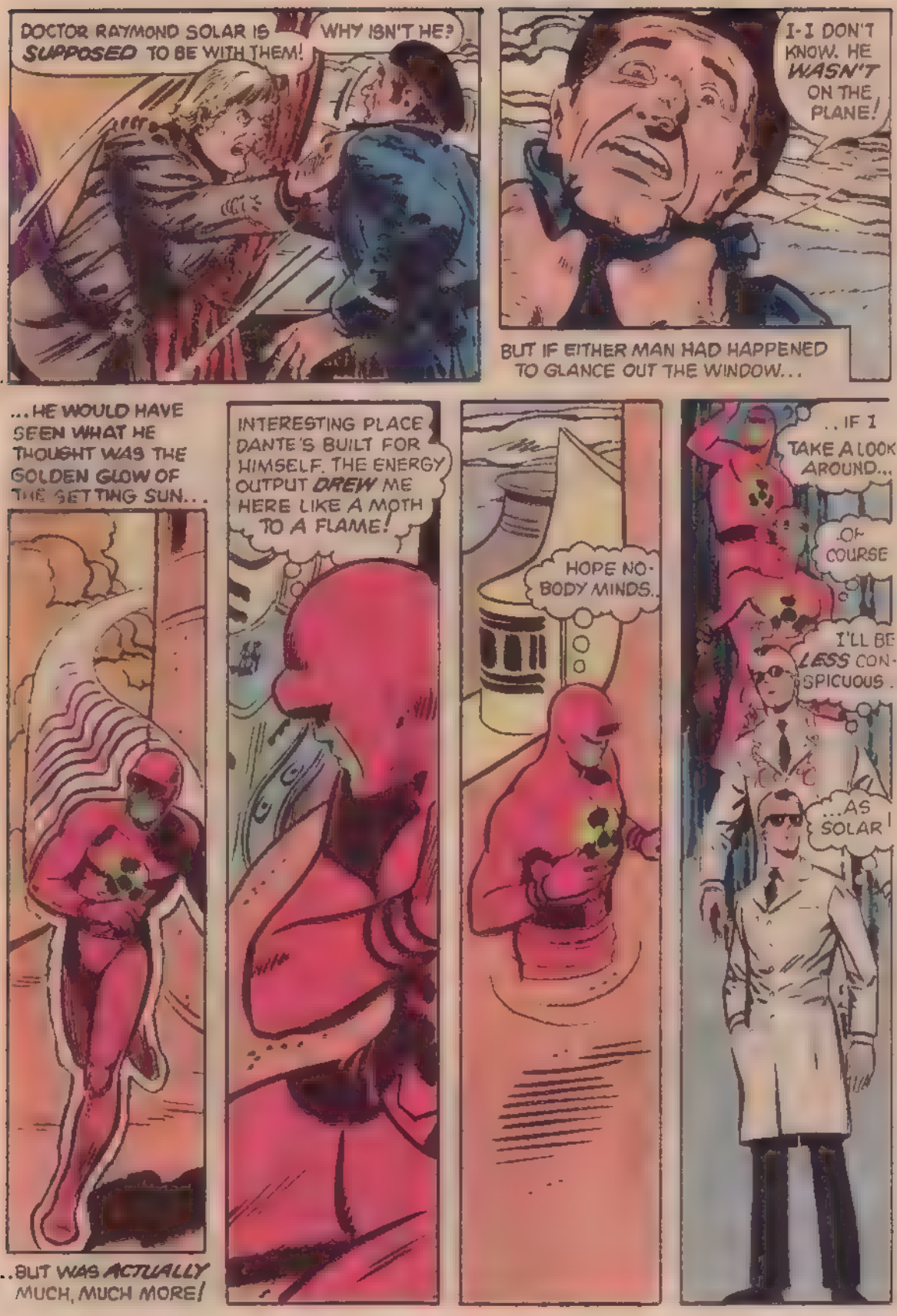

SO WEAK I CAN HARDLY FLY... BUT I'VE GOT TO REACH THAT BOY BEFORE--
KOFF KOFF
BILLY!
HE'S A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT HE'LL BE FINE!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!
THINK YOU COULD FIND MY CAR?
HOW'D YOU GET YOUR POWERS?
ARE YOU REALLY ATOMIC?
HOW MUCH DO YOU CHARGE FOR--

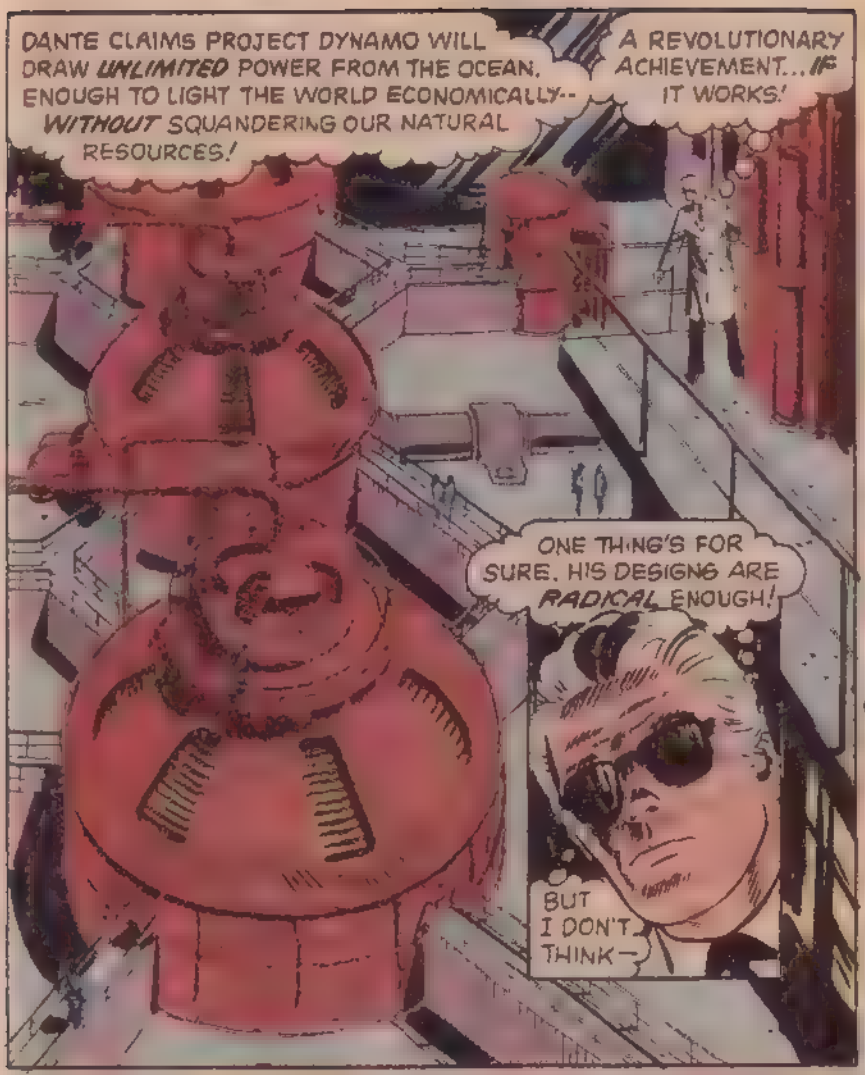
PLEASE...PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE! KEEP AWAY!
HEY! WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM?
MAYBE HE ISN'T ALL HE'S CRACKED UP TO BE!
HE SAVED OUR LIVES, DIDN'T HE?
THEN WHY'D HE RUN? WHAT'S HE GOT TO HIDE?
SAY, THAT'S RIGHT! HE COULD HAVE SABOTAGED THE DAM JUST FOR PUBLICITY!
HAD TO GET AWAY. THEY WERE PRESSING TOO CLOSE...
...ONE THING I'VE ALWAYS FEARED. AS LONG AS I'M PURE NUCLEAR ENERGY, MY PRESENCE IS A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO OTHERS.
THAT MAKES ME JUST ABOUT THE LONELIEST PERSON ALIVE!
TRANSFORMING INTO SOUND WAVES, A WEARY MAN OF THE ATOM LETS HIS ATOMIC MOLECULES DO THE WALKING...
...AND A FEW SECONDS LATER AT ATOM VALLEY...
BRING RING!
O.K. ...KLIK... KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON... KLIK... I ONLY HAVE EIGHT ARMS!
SOLAR!
HOPE THIS CALL ISN'T...KLIK ...COLLECT!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER AT A SECRET REACTOR HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF THE NUCLEAR COMPLEX...
I'M ABSORBING ENOUGH RADIATION TO DECIMATE HALF THE WORLD...
...BUT I NEED IT JUST TO SURVIVE. MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL FIND A CURE... SOMEDAY TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN!
SURE... SOMEDAY...
AND FOLLOWING SOLAR'S ATOMIC RECHARGE...
TINKER, HAVE YOU MANAGED TO DIG UP ANY MORE INFO ON ERIC DANTE?
COMPUTER SYSTEM'S WORKING ON IT..KLIK... COLLATING ALL AVAILABLE DATA.
BUT IT'S A BIG JOB... KLIK.. I'LL NEED TIME.
THAT'S SOMETHING WE DON'T HAVE, TINKER!
I'D BETTER LOOK FOR MYSELF.
FOR A FEW FRANTIC MOMENTS, MAN MELDS WITH MACHINES SEEKING ANSWERS


THEN...
NOTHING! COMPUTERS ARE DRY AS A BONE. IT'S AS IF DANTE SPRANG OUT OF NOWHERE TO BECOME POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN ALIVE!
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
I DON'T KNOW, TINKER.
BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT!
MEANWHILE, HALF A WORLD AWAY...
THIS WAY, DOCTORS. MISTER DANTE IS EXPECTING YOU.
BUT WE WEREN'T EXPECTING ARMED GUARDS!
SIMPLY A MATTER OF SECURITY, DOCTOR SANDERS. MISTER DANTE TAKES NO CHANCES!
WE'RE HEADING OUT TO OPEN SEA. THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, JOHN!
THERE ISN'T A SPOT OF LAND IN ANY DIRECTION FOR A THOUSAND MI--
MAYBE NOT GAIL...
...BUT WHAT'S THAT?


BELIEVE ME, I WISH I KNEW!
WELCOME TO NEW ATLANTIS!
THIS IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE THING I'VE EVER SEEN. I WISH SOLAR WERE HERE!
SO DO I, DOCTOR. SO DO I!
MEANWHILE ..
MORE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED, MISTER DANTE. DOCTORS CLARKSON AND SANDERS FROM THE ATOM VALLEY DELEGATION.
EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!
HARRISON, YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT!
EVERYTHING IS NOT GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!


DOCTOR RAYMOND SOLAR IS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH THEM!
WHY ISN'T HE?
I-I DON'T KNOW. HE WASN'T ON THE PLANE!
BUT IF EITHER MAN HAD HAPPENED TO GLANCE OUT THE WINDOW...
...HE WOULD HAVE SEEN WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE GOLDEN GLOW OF THE SETTING SUN...
..BUT WAS ACTUALLY MUCH, MUCH MORE!
INTERESTING PLACE DANTE'S BUILT FOR HIMSELF. THE ENERGY OUTPUT DREW ME HERE LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME!
HOPE NOBODY MINDS..
..IF I TAKE A LOOK AROUND...
OF COURSE
I'LL BE LESS CONSPICUOUS.
...AS SOLAR!

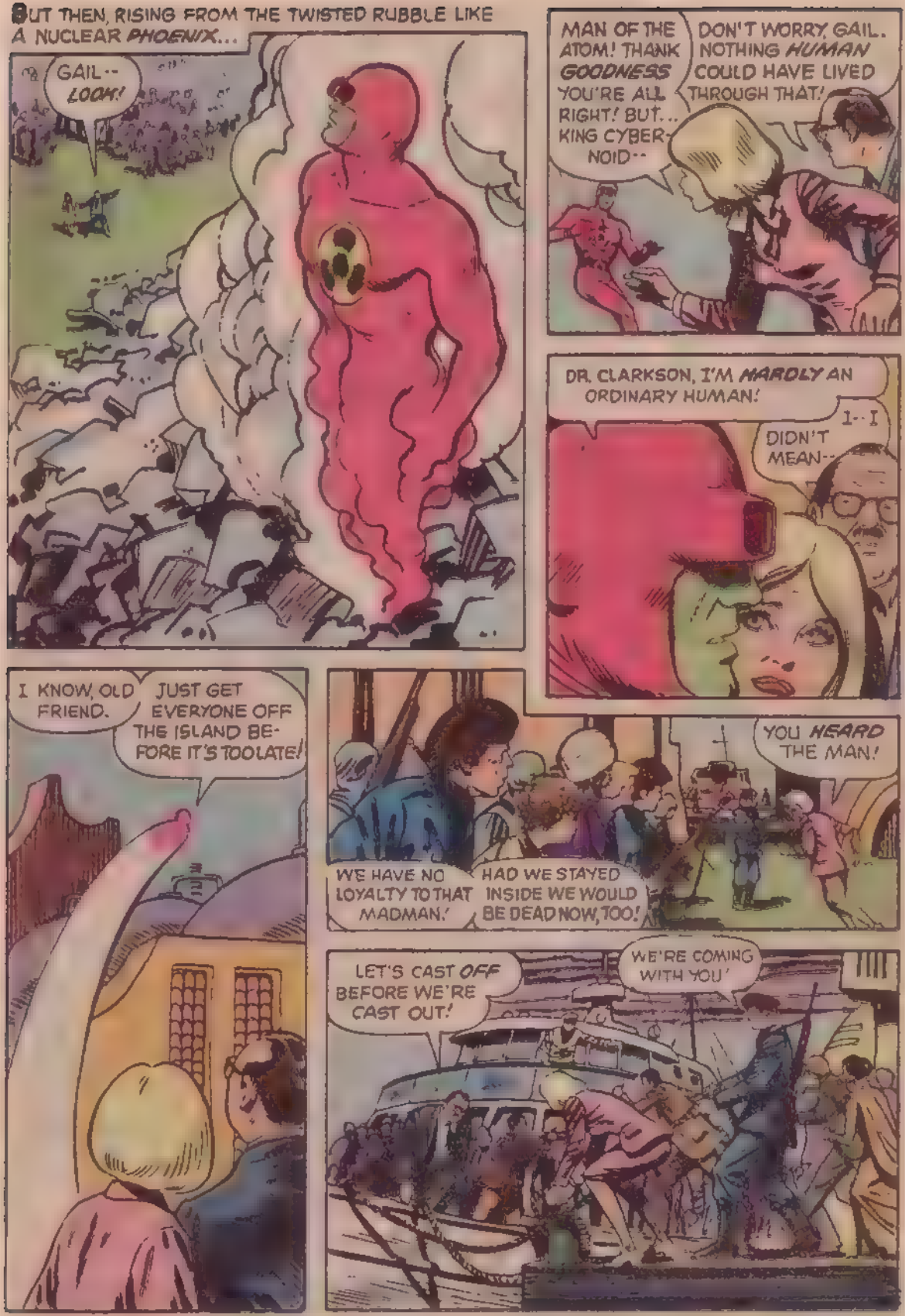

DANTE CLAIMS PROJECT DYNAMO WILL DRAW UNLIMITED POWER FROM THE OCEAN, ENOUGH TO LIGHT THE WORLD ECONOMICALLY-- WITHOUT SQUANDERING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES!
A REVOLUTIONARY ACHIEVEMENT... IF IT WORKS!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE. HIS DESIGNS ARE RADICAL ENOUGH!
BUT I DON'T THINK—

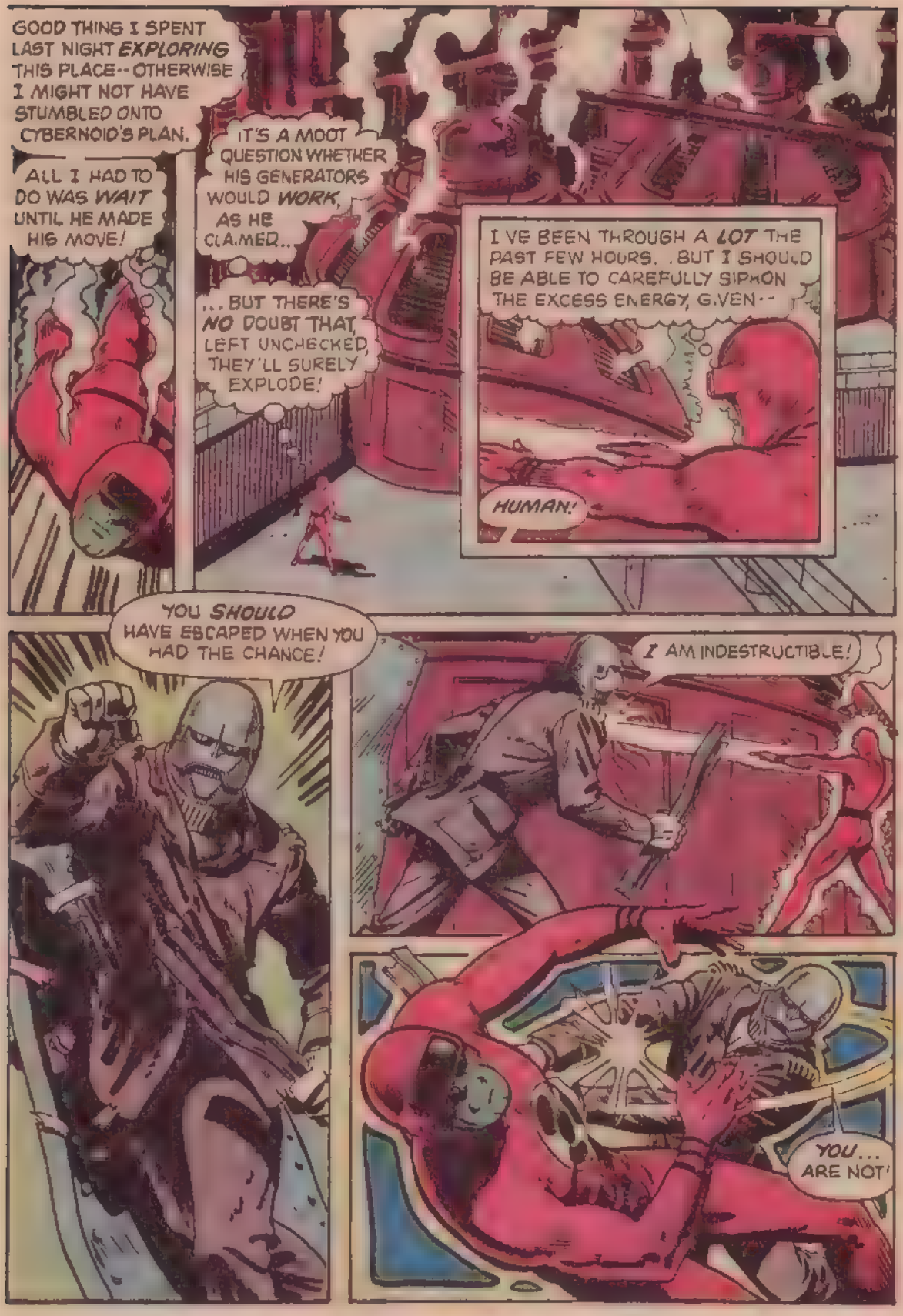
THE GUARD'S FOOTSTEPS ECHO DOWN THE EMPTY CORRIDOR AND QUICKLY FADE...

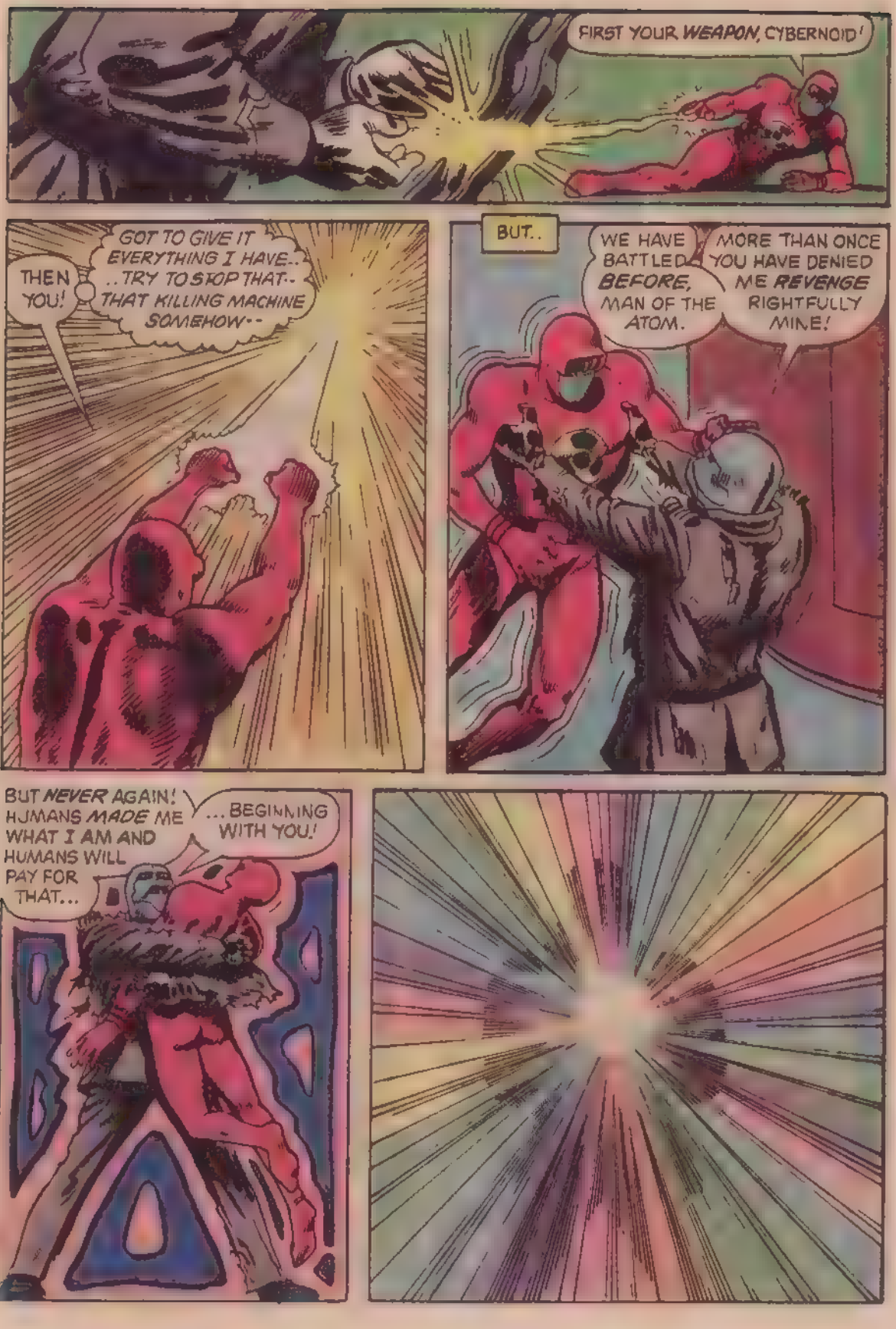
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
MY SOLE CONCERN IS INTERNATIONAL WELFARE... AS I'M PREPARED TO SHOW YOU...
...FOOLS!
IT'S INCREDIBLE, GAIL. SCIENTISTS AND DIGNITARIES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD ARE GATHERED HERE!
EXCEPT ONE, DOCTOR CLARKSON. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO SOLAR?
WITH THE FLIP OF THIS SWITCH NEW ATLANTIS WILL USHER IN A NEW BEGINNING FOR MANKIND...
..THE BEGINNING OF THE END--
BUT THEN...
NOT SO FAST, DANTE...
DID YOU THINK I'D ALLOW YOU TO MURDER THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...
..JUST SO YOU COULD PICK UP THE PIECES?
JOHN, HAS HE LOST HIS MIND?
WHO IS THAT? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
I RECOGNIZE HIM-- THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

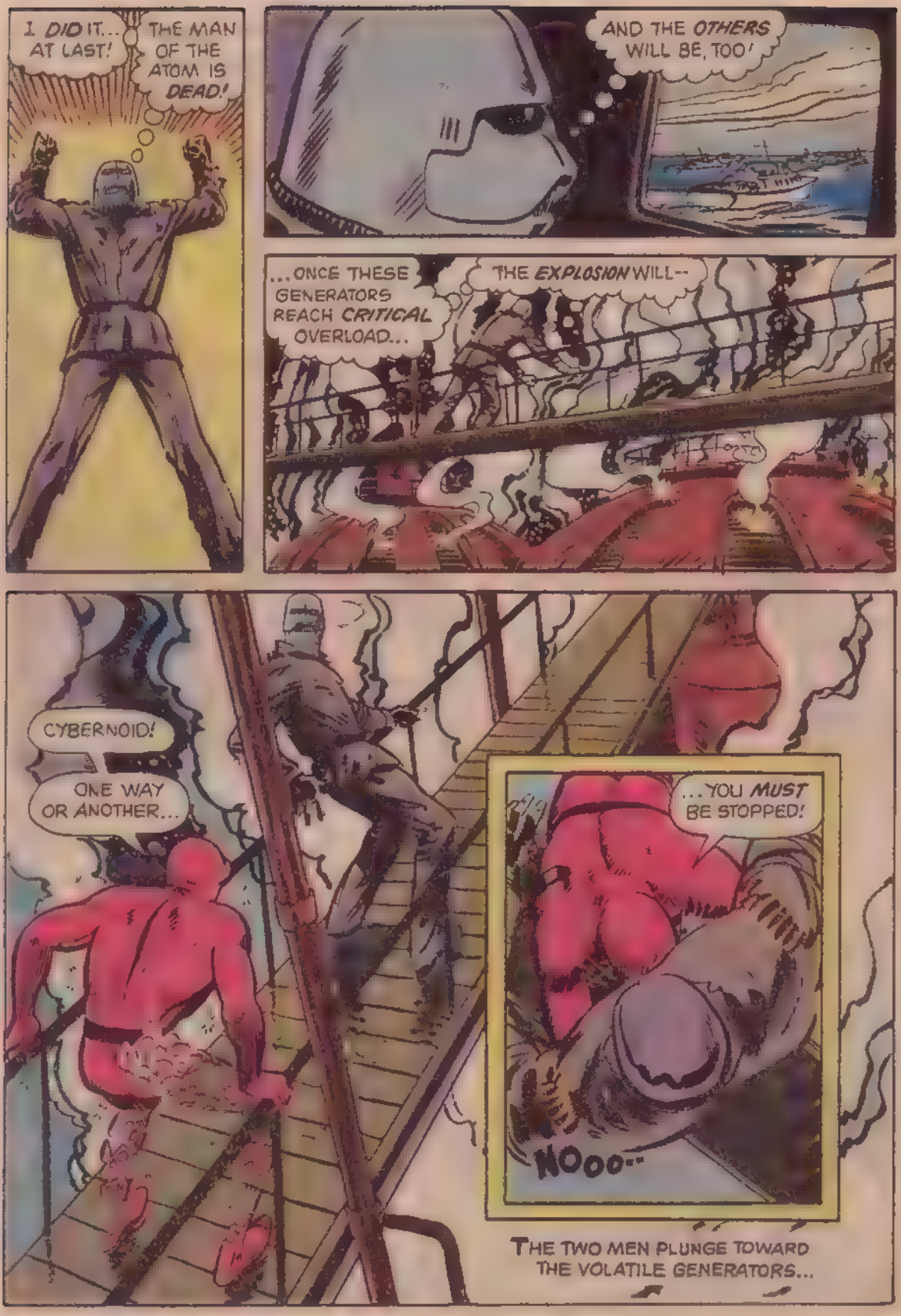
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! LEAVE THIS PLACE NOW!
YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
THE ONLY DANGER HERE IS YOU, NUCLEAR MAN!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! THIS WHOLE ISLAND IS A DEATH TRAP...
...AND HE SET IT!
DANTE'S DEAD! THE MAN OF THE ATOM KILLED HIM IN COLD BLOOD!
NO, WAIT! LOOK!
ATOM...
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?
...I'LL SEE YOU BURN FOR THIS!

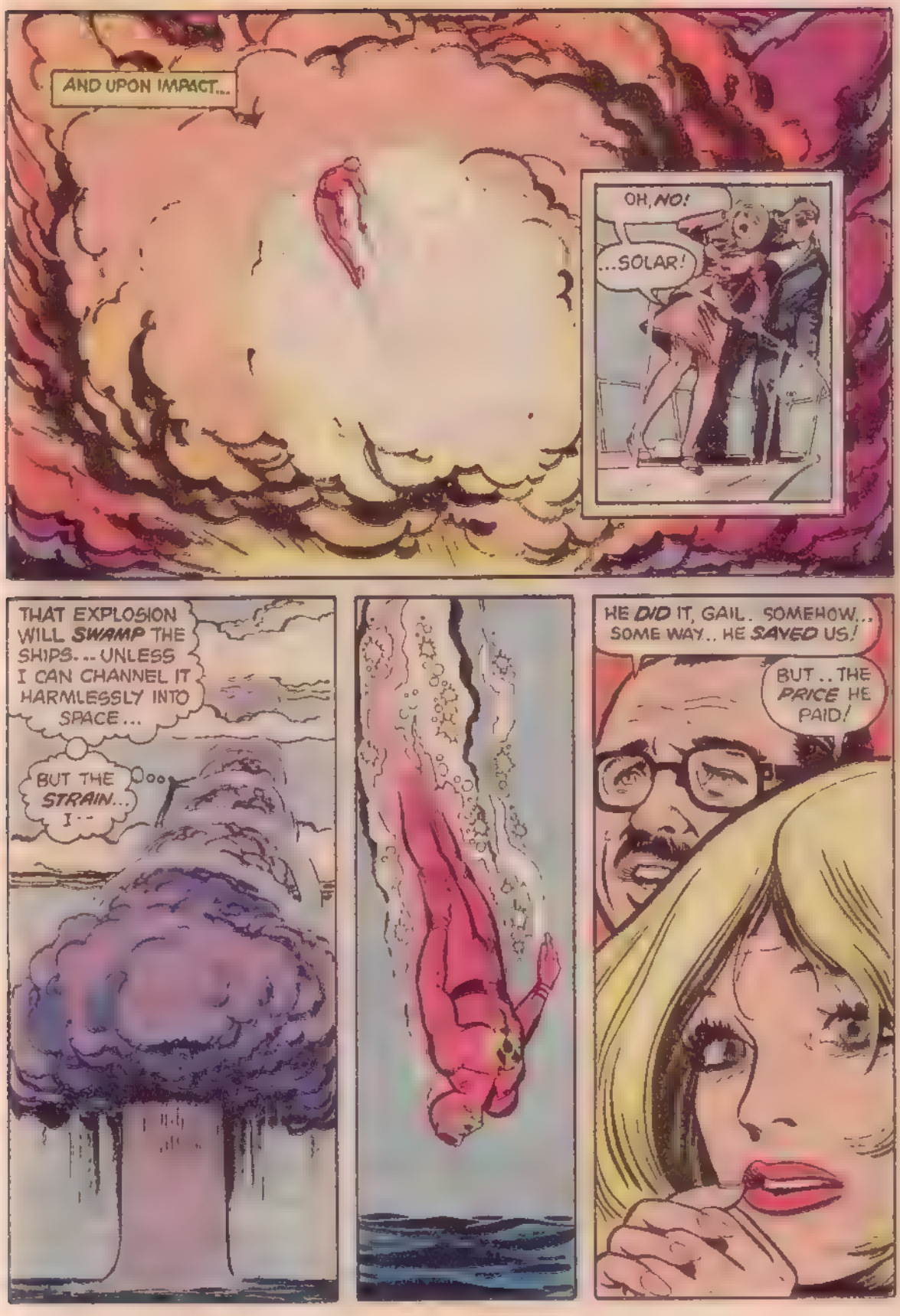
KING CYBERNOID! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
GAIL. . DOCTOR CLARKSON...GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE. I'LL HANDLE...THAT THING!
I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH!
SKRUUK!
THE ROOF!
HURRY! I CAN'T HOLD THIS BUILDING TOGETHER FOREVER!
JOHN... WE'RE ALL SAFE ... EXCEPT SOLAR. HE'S STILL IN THERE!
HE--
OH-H, NO!
H-HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

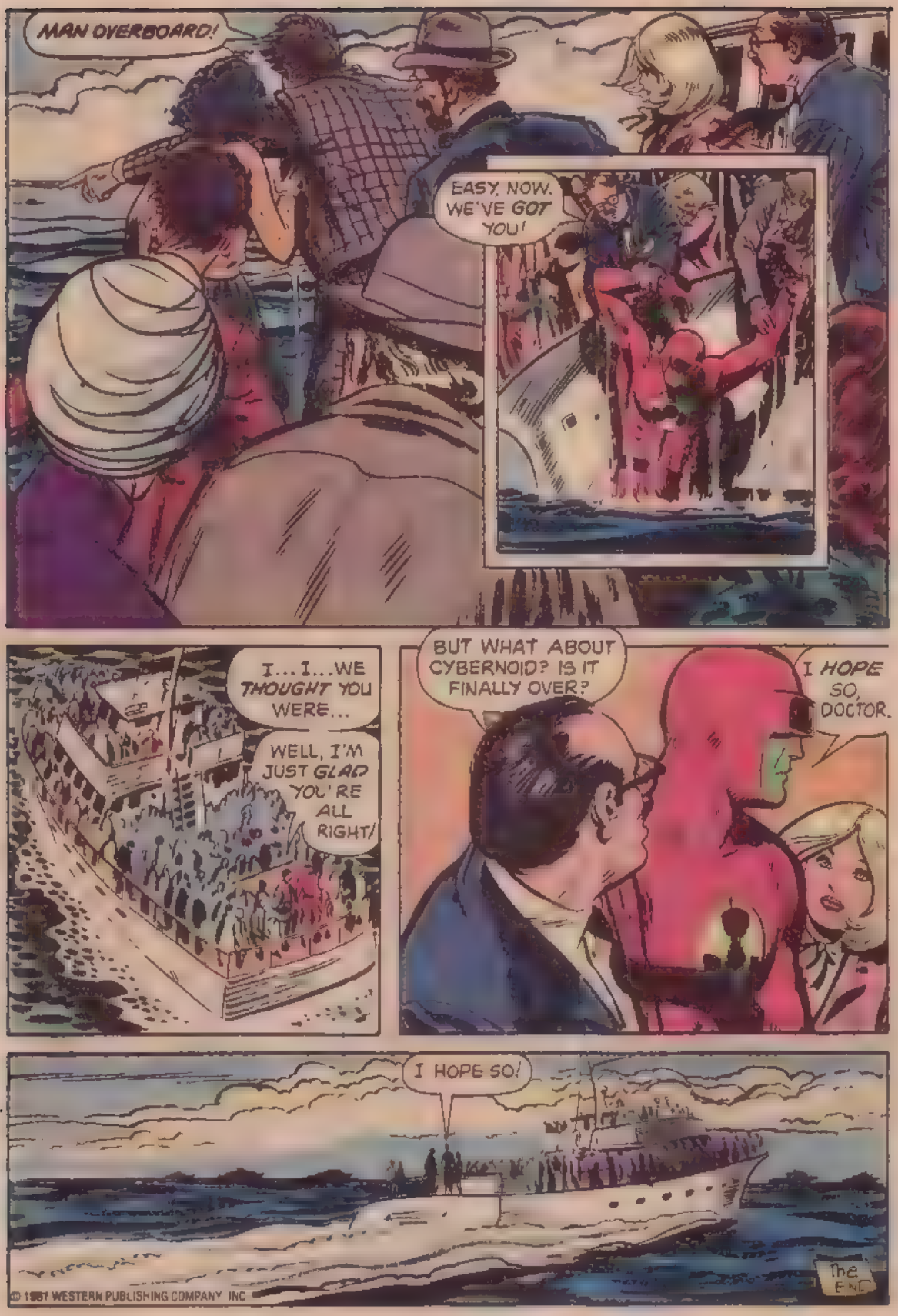

BUT THEN, RISING FROM THE TWISTED RUBBLE LIKE A NUCLEAR PHOENIX...
GAIL-- LOOK!
MAN OF THE ATOM! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! BUT... KING CYBER-NOID--
DON'T WORRY, GAIL. NOTHING HUMAN COULD HAVE LIVED THROUGH THAT!
DR. CLARKSON, I'M MARDLY AN ORDINARY HUMAN!
I-- I DIDN'T MEAN--
I KNOW, OLD FRIEND.
JUST GET EVERYONE OFF THE ISLAND BE-FORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YOU HEARD THE MAN!
WE HAVE NO LOYALTY TO THAT MADMAN!
HAD WE STAYED INSIDE WE WOULD BE DEAD NOW, TOO!
LET'S CAST OFF BEFORE WE'RE CAST OUT!
WE'RE COMING WITH YOU!


GOOD THING I SPENT LAST NIGHT EXPLORING THIS PLACE--OTHERWISE I MIGHT NOT HAVE STUMBLED ONTO CYBERNOID'S PLAN.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WAIT UNTIL HE MADE HIS MOVE!
IT'S A MOOT QUESTION WHETHER HIS GENERATORS WOULD WORK, AS HE CLAIMED...
...BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT, LEFT UNCHECKED, THEY'LL SURELY EXPLODE!
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT THE PAST FEW HOURS. . BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CAREFULLY SIPHON THE EXCESS ENERGY, GIVEN--
HUMAN!
YOU SHOULD HAVE ESCAPED WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
I AM INDESTRUCTIBLE!
YOU... ARE NOT!


FIRST YOUR WEAPON, CYBERNOID!
THEN YOU!
GOT TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING I HAVE.. ..TRY TO STOP THAT.. THAT KILLING MACHINE SOMEHOW..
BUT..
WE HAVE BATTLED BEFORE, MAN OF THE ATOM.
MORE THAN ONCE YOU HAVE DENIED ME REVENGE RIGHTFULLY MINE!
BUT NEVER AGAIN! HUMANS MADE ME WHAT I AM AND HUMANS WILL PAY FOR THAT...
...BEGINNING WITH YOU!


I DID IT... AT LAST!
THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS DEAD!
AND THE OTHERS WILL BE, TOO!
...ONCE THESE GENERATORS REACH CRITICAL OVERLOAD...
THE EXPLOSION WILL--
CYBERNOID!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
...YOU MUST BE STOPPED!
NOoo--
THE TWO MEN PLUNGE TOWARD THE VOLATILE GENERATORS...


AND UPON IMPACT...
OH, NO!
...SOLAR!
THAT EXPLOSION WILL SWAMP THE SHIPS... UNLESS I CAN CHANNEL IT HARMLESSLY INTO SPACE...
BUT THE STRAIN... I--
HE DID IT, GAIL. SOMEHOW... SOME WAY.. HE SAVED US!
BUT.. THE PRICE HE PAID!


MAN OVERBOARD!
EASY, NOW. WE'VE GOT YOU!
I... I... WE THOUGHT YOU WERE...
WELL, I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BUT WHAT ABOUT CYBERNOID? IS IT FINALLY OVER?
I HOPE SO, DOCTOR.
I HOPE SO!
THE END
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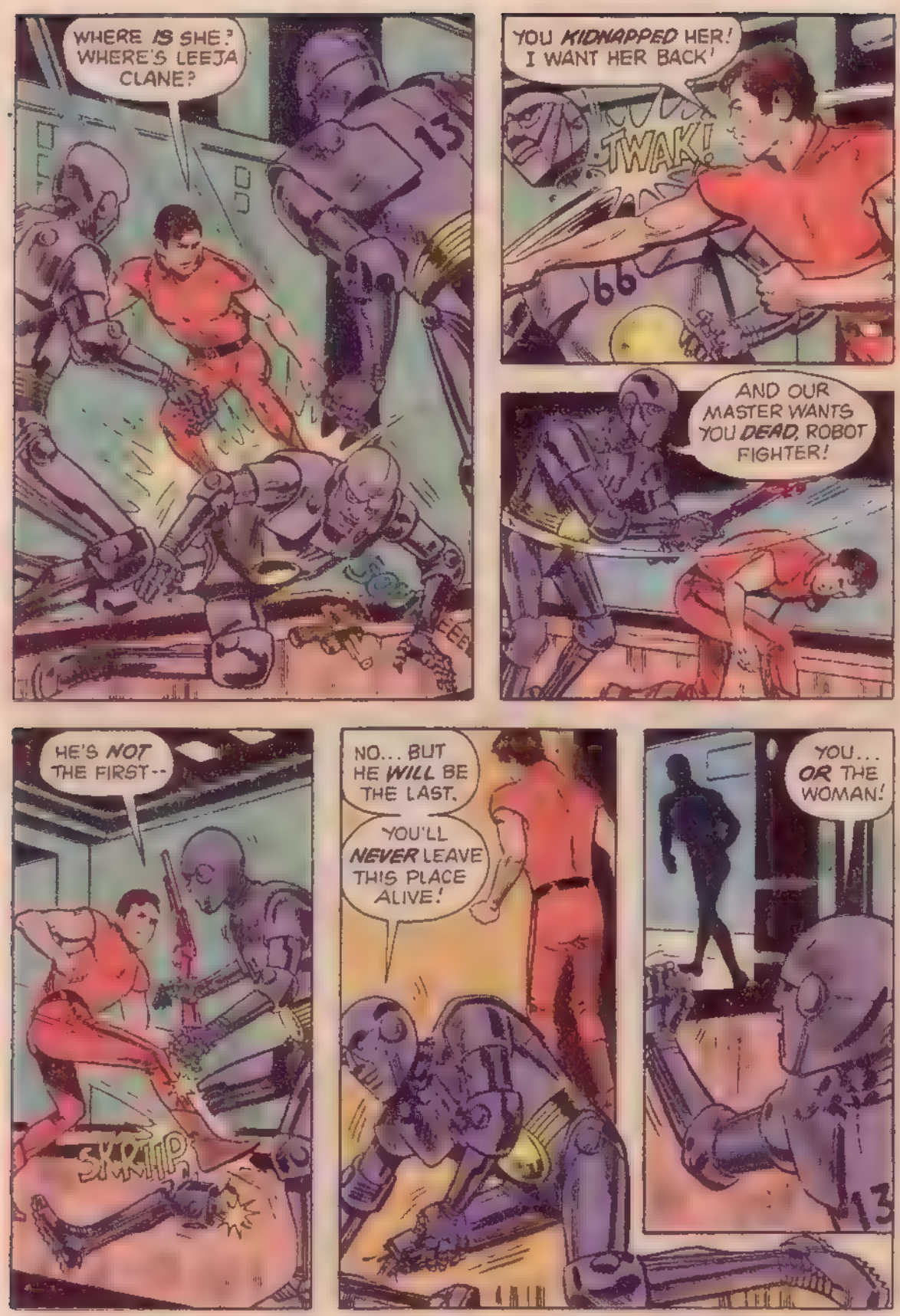
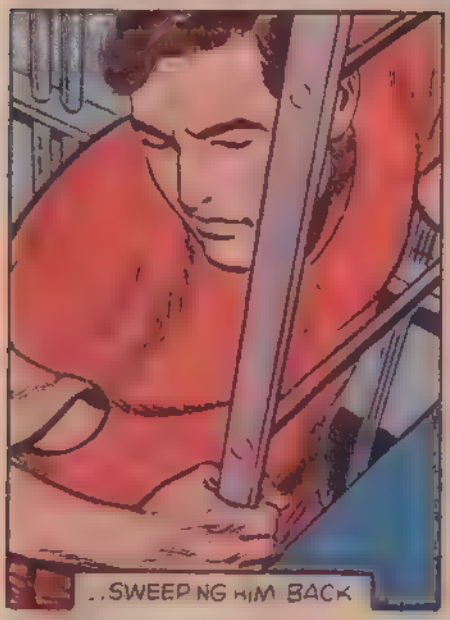
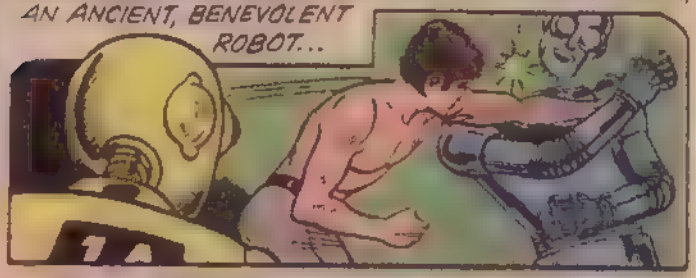
BUILT TO BE PERFECT SLAVES, ROBOTS BECAME TYRANICAL MASTERS--UNTIL ONE MAN WITH STEEL-SMASHING STRENGTH DARED CHALLENGE THEM...
MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 4,000 A.D.
A TECHNOLOGICAL WONDERLAND, NORTH AM SPRAWLS ACROSS FOUR TIME ZONES-- STRETCHING FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA.
BUT THERE ARE STILL DARK, HIDDEN CORNERS... LOWER LEVELS...
Where Angels Fear...
WRITTEN BY: ROGER McKENZIE
ART BY: FRANK BOLLE
ALPHA SECTOR SECURED. NO SIGN OF--
INTRUDER!
13
477
6


WHERE IS SHE? WHERE'S LEEJA CLANE?
13
YOU KIDNAPPED HER! I WANT HER BACK!
TWAK!
66
AND OUR MASTER WANTS YOU DEAD, ROBOT FIGHTER!
HE'S NOT THE FIRST--
SKRIP
NO... BUT HE WILL BE THE LAST.
YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE!
YOU... OR THE WOMAN!
13

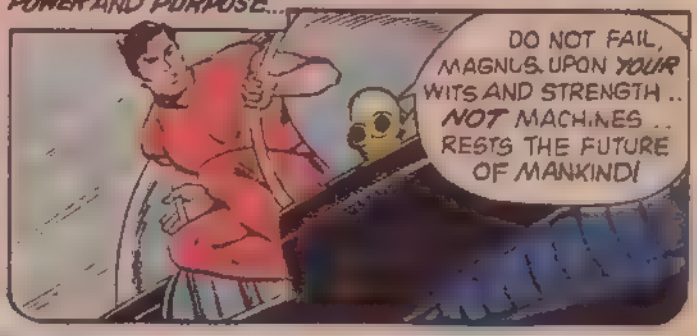
THE WOMAN, LEEJA CLANE *MEMORIES* WASH OVER HIM LIKE A FLOODTIDE..



*BACK TO THE LONG, LONELY YEARS SPENT IN VIRTUAL **SECLUSION** FAR BELOW THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN.. AS 1-A, AN ANCIENT, BENEVOLENT ROBOT...*



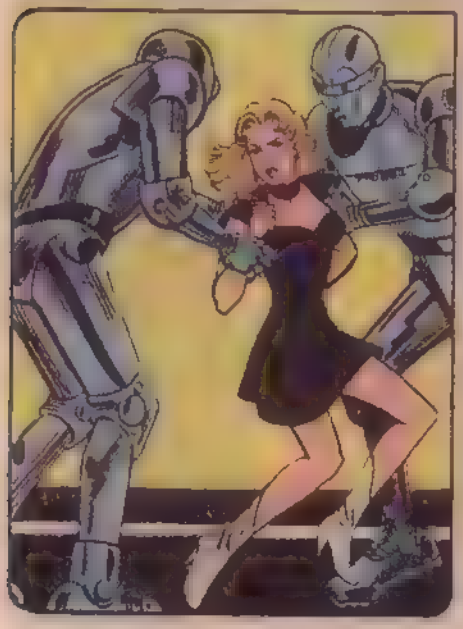
*..TOOK AN **ORPHAN** AND GAVE HIM STEEL-SMASHING **POWER** AND **PURPOSE**...*



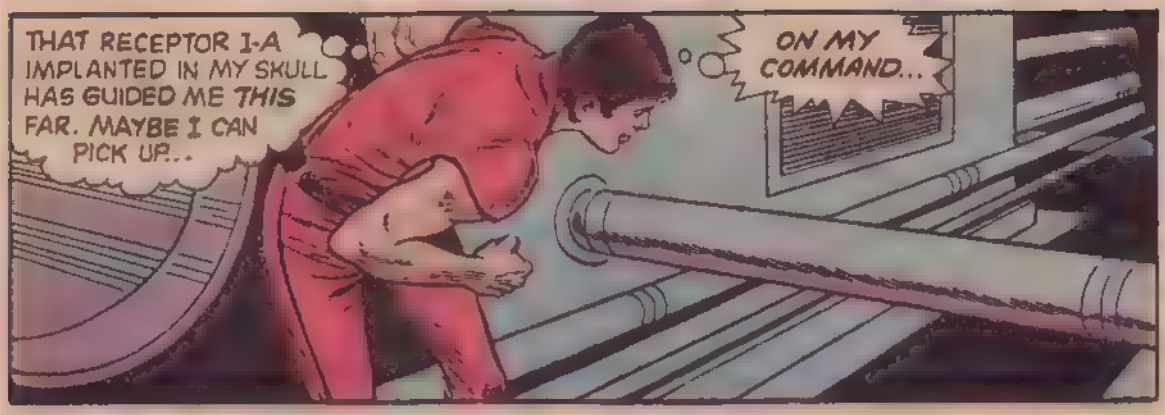
*BUT MAGNUS' FUTURE WAS A **DANGEROUS** ONE...*

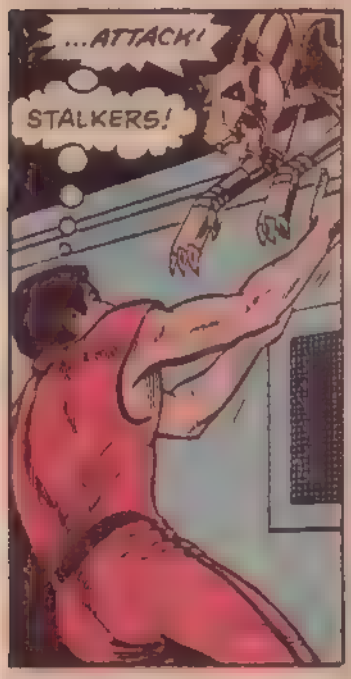
*... CONSTANTLY **BRIGHTENED** BY LEEJA..*

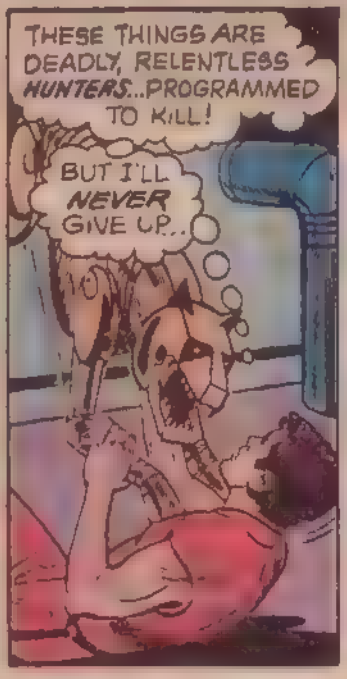
*... UNTIL **LESS** THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO, WHEN THE SENATOR'S DAUGHTER WAS...*



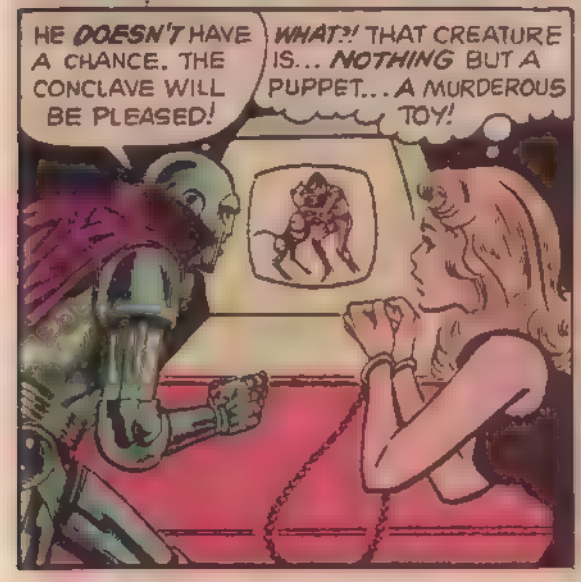
I'M COMING FOR YOU! DO YOU HEAR ME?
I'M COMING FOR YOU, MADMAN!
I HEAR, ROBOT FIGHTER!
BUT I AM NEITHER MAD...
..NOR MAN!
EVL
BUT YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU, LEEJA CLANE?
YOU ARE THE BAIT...
...THAT WILL LEAD MAGNUS TO THE SLAUGHTER!

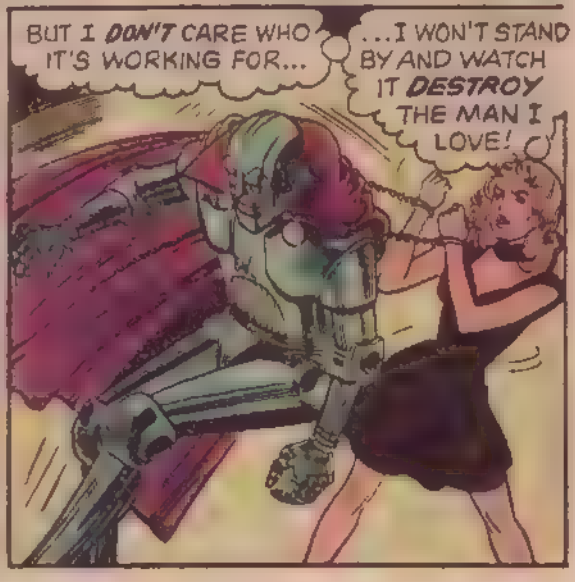

THAT RECEPTOR 1-A IMPLANTED IN MY SKULL HAS GUIDED ME THIS FAR. MAYBE I CAN PICK UP...
ON MY COMMAND...

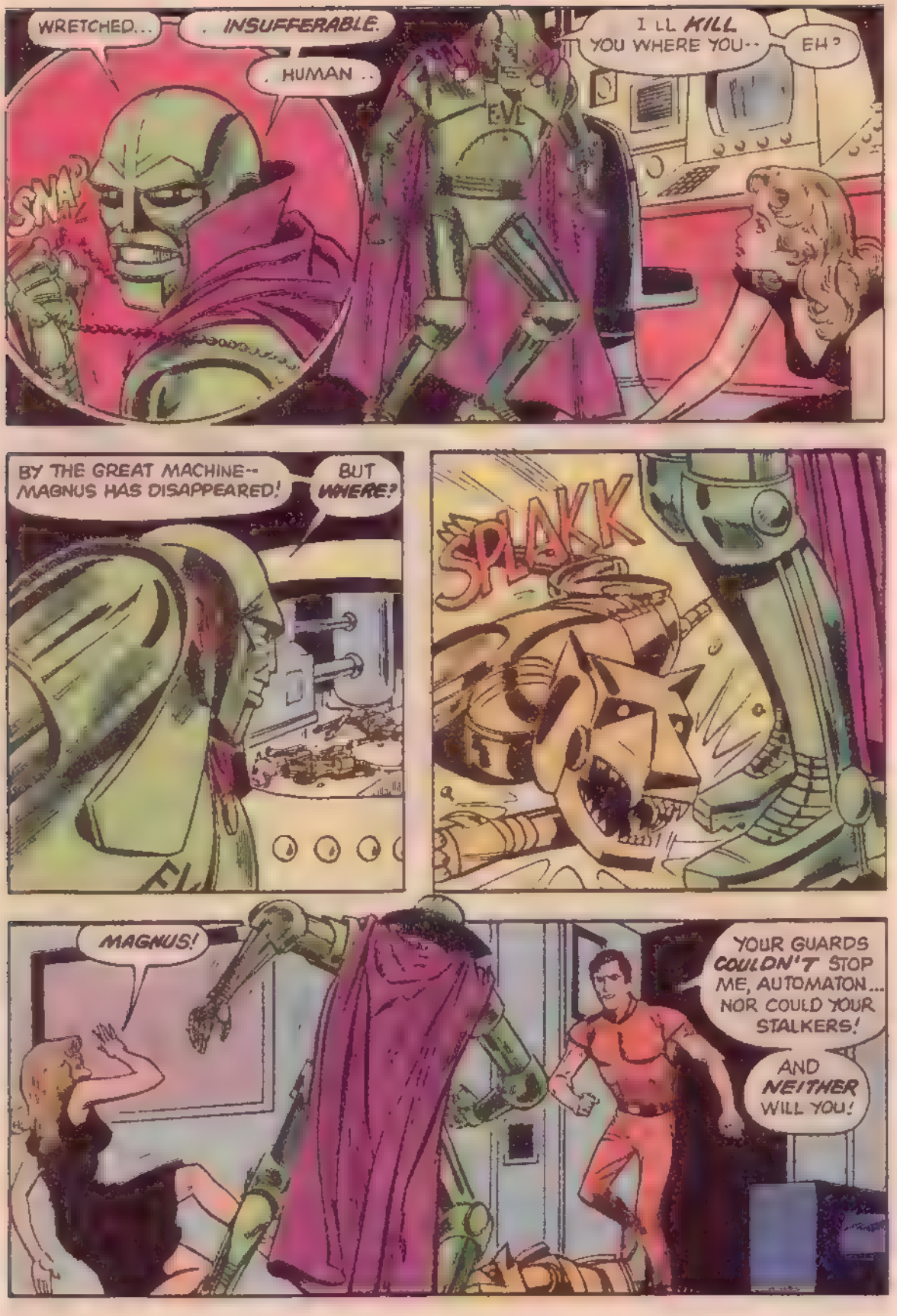

...ATTACK!
STALKERS!


THESE THINGS ARE DEADLY, RELENTLESS HUNTERS...PROGRAMMED TO KILL!
BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE UP..

...NOT AS LONG AS LEEJA NEEDS ME!

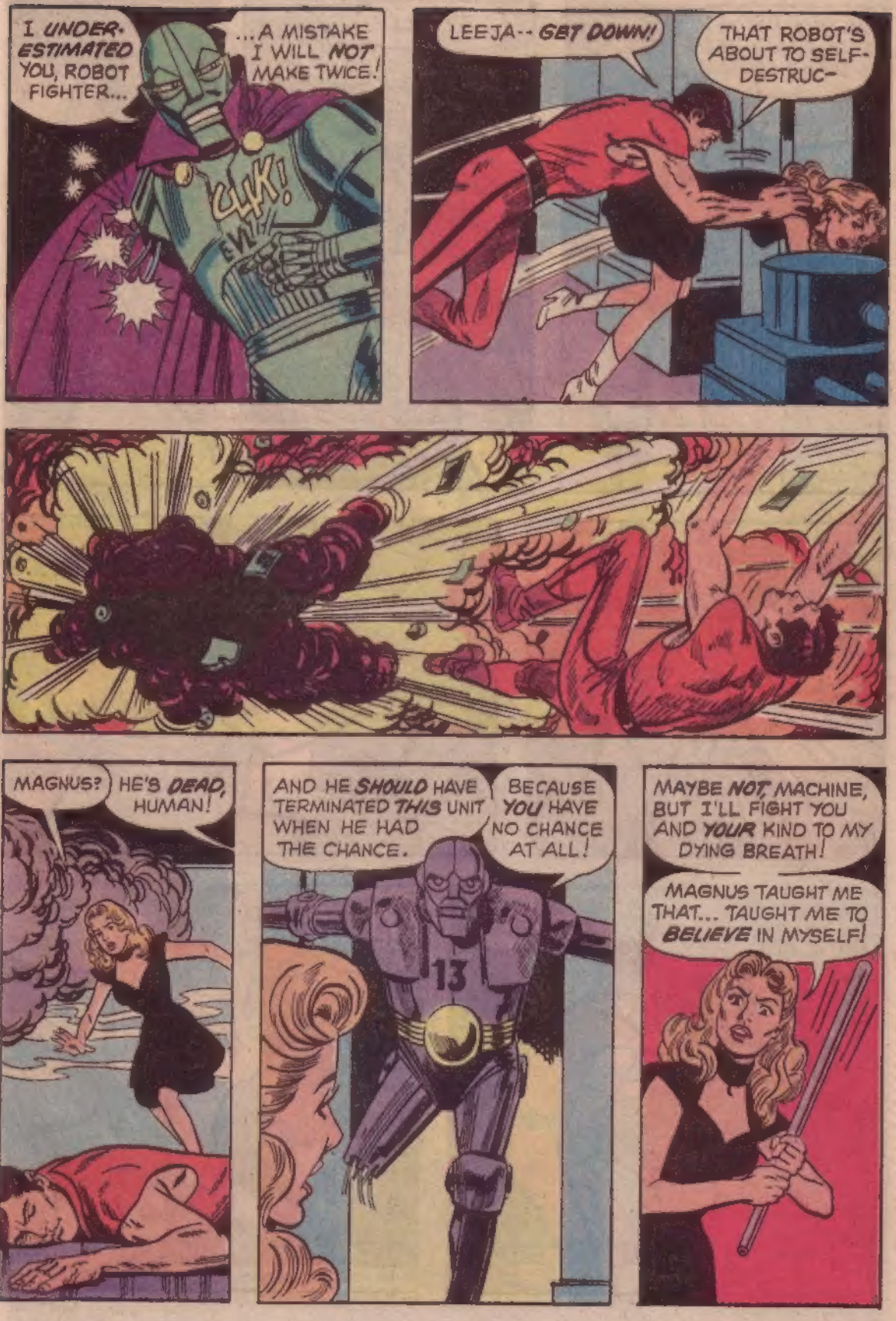

HE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE. THE CONCLAVE WILL BE PLEASED!
WHAT?! THAT CREATURE IS... NOTHING BUT A PUPPET... A MURDEROUS TOY!


BUT I DON'T CARE WHO IT'S WORKING FOR...
...I WON'T STAND BY AND WATCH IT DESTROY THE MAN I LOVE!


WRETCHED...
INSUFFERABLE.
HUMAN..
SNAP
EVIL
I'LL KILL YOU WHERE YOU--
EH?
BY THE GREAT MACHINE-- MAGNUS HAS DISAPPEARED!
BUT WHERE?
SPLAKK
MAGNUS!
YOUR GUARDS COULDN'T STOP ME, AUTOMATON... NOR COULD YOUR STALKERS!
AND NEITHER WILL YOU!

SKRAKK!
THAT ROBOT FIGHTER...
...REMAINS TO BE SEEN!
FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, MY MASTERS WISH YOU DEAD!
A WISH I AM HAPPY TO GRANT!
YOUR KIND-- SO SOFT, SO WEAK, SO... IMPERFECT..
...SICKENS ME!
YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO LIVE!

YOU WERE BUILT TO SERVE...
...NOT PASS JUDGMENT!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MACHINE!
YOU HAVE NO HEART.. NO SOUL!
LEEJA, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I--I THINK SO. I--
MAGNUS--
EVIL
SKRAK!


I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU, ROBOT FIGHTER...
...A MISTAKE I WILL NOT MAKE TWICE!
CLK!
LEEJA-- GET DOWN!
THAT ROBOT'S ABOUT TO SELF-DESTRUC-
MAGNUS?
HE'S DEAD, HUMAN!
AND HE SHOULD HAVE TERMINATED THIS UNIT WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AT ALL!
13
MAYBE NOT, MACHINE, BUT I'LL FIGHT YOU AND YOUR KIND TO MY DYING BREATH!
MAGNUS TAUGHT ME THAT... TAUGHT ME TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF!

MAGNUS WAS A FOOL. ROBOTS WERE MEANT TO RULE...
TO CONQUER...
13
...TO KILL!
SQUEEEEE
MAGNUS! LET ME HELP YOU. YOU'RE HURT!
NOTHING THAT WON'T HEAL!
AT LEAST IT'S OVER, DARLING!
NO, LEEJA ...IT'S JUST BEGINNING!
13
End
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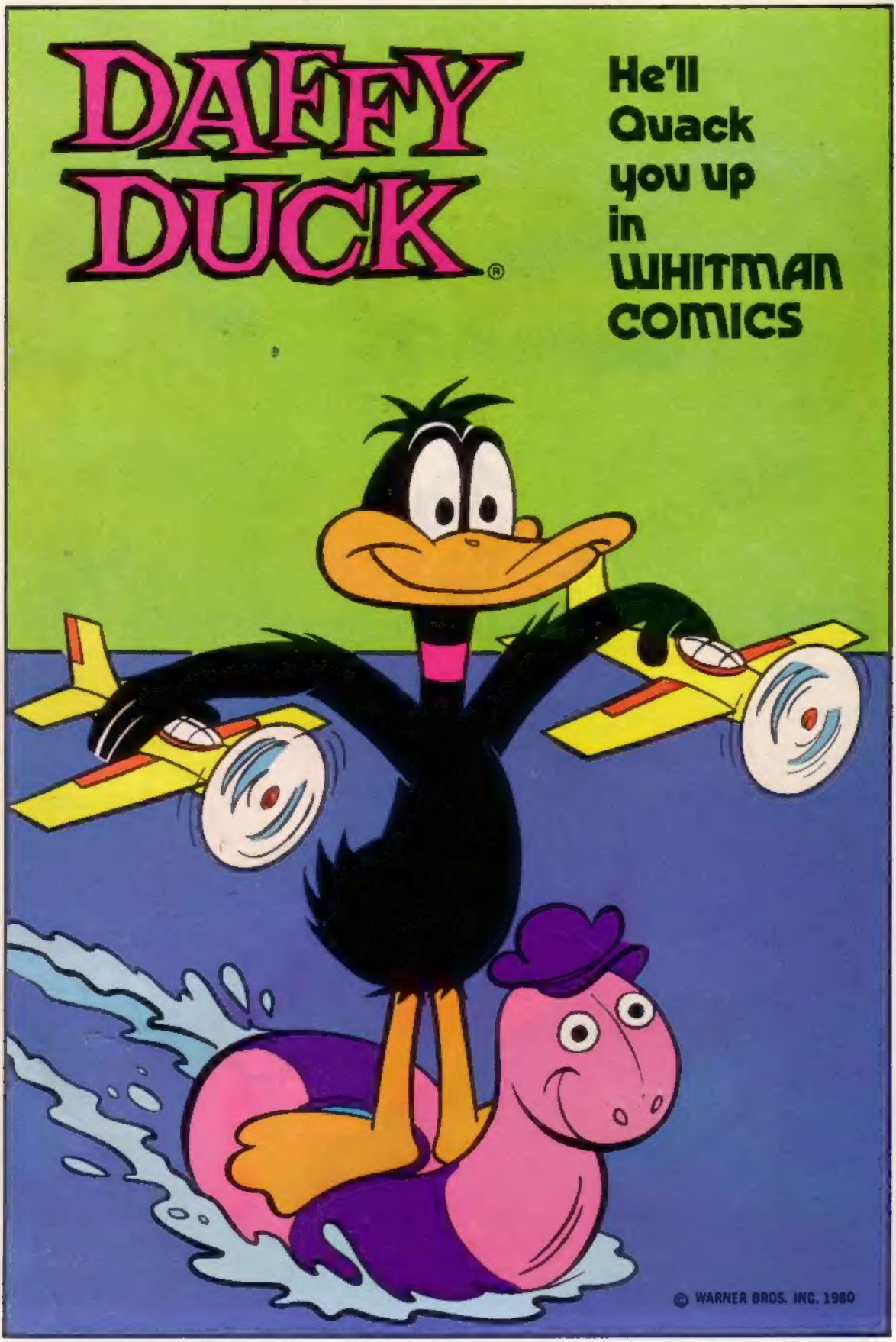
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He'll Quack you up in WHITMAN COMICS
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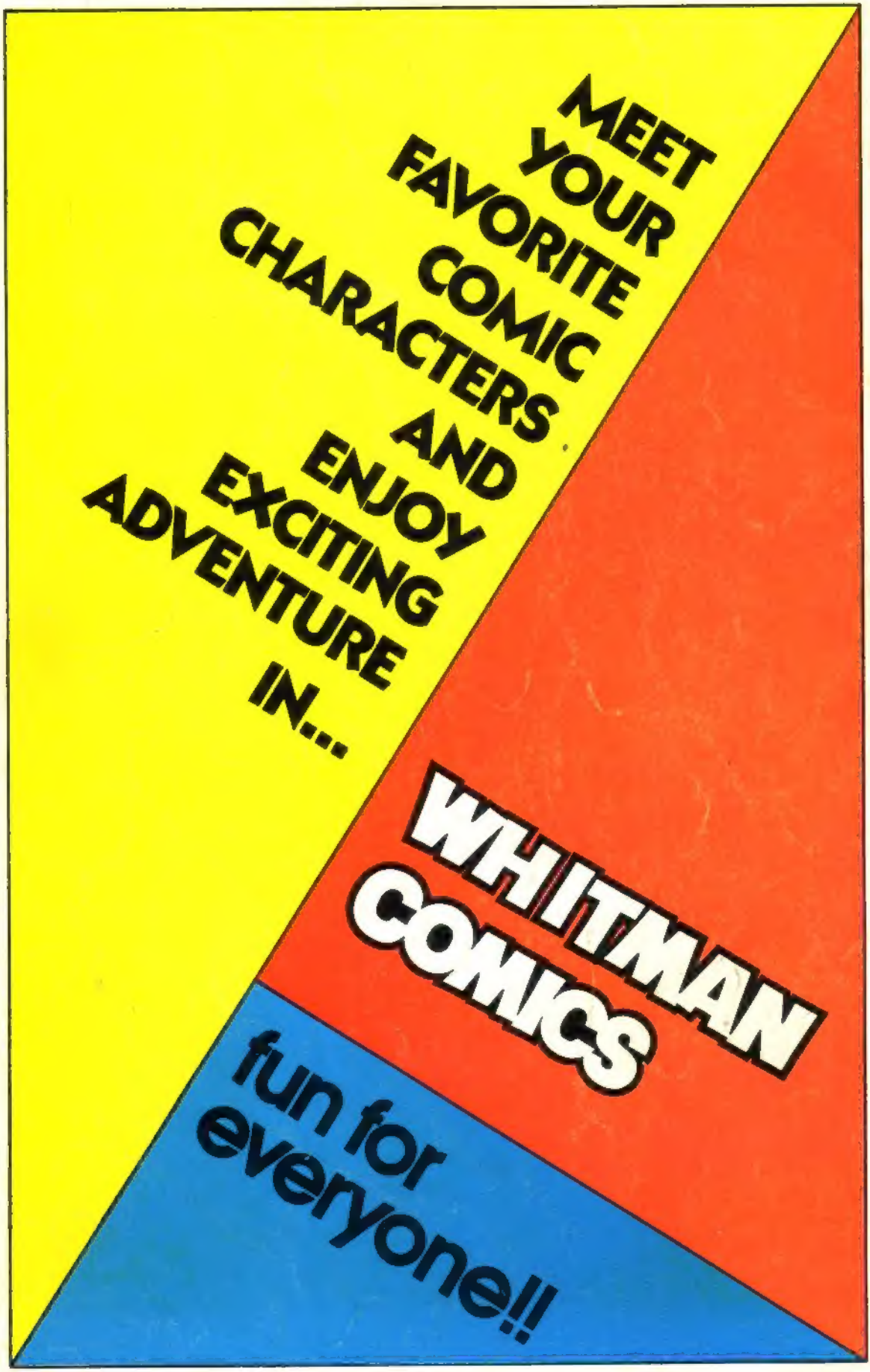
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